

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) became U.S. law on April 10, 1979 and for the last twenty-three years, has served both the U.S. and the Republic of China on Taiwan well. By deterring aggression by the mainland, the United States has protected Taiwan from being forced into negotiations with China under the threat of armed attack or other forms of coercion. The TRA maintains the stable and secure environment within which Taiwan has become one of the world's leading free-market democracies. Today, Taiwan is prosperous and democratic, a nation well recognized for its achievements worldwide.

Taiwan is the seventh largest trading partner of the United States and has imported more from the United States each year, over the past 15 years, than the whole of mainland China. Furthermore, Taiwan and the United States share similar principles of freedom, democracy, human rights, peace and prosperity. Within the guidelines of the Taiwan Relations Act, Taiwan has completed various economic reforms and become a fully democratic country.

The legal and policy framework created by the TRA has allowed the U.S. Government and the American people to enjoy substantive relations with the governments and people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. None of this would have been possible, as Ronald Reagan noted in 1980, had it not been for "the timely action of the Congress, reflecting the strong support of the American people for Taiwan."

On the eve of the 23rd anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I am confident that our relations with Taiwan will grow even stronger and that the TRA will continue to serve as the foundation for a strong partnership between our two nations.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF THE VIENNA LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vienna Little League of Vienna, Virginia as it celebrates 50 years of providing outstanding community service to the boys and girls of Vienna. In 1952, young ball players in Vienna were advised they could no longer play in the neighboring town's Little League. With a dedicated group of parents and the backing of the Lions Clubs of Vienna, the Vienna Little League was formed. One hundred and seventy-five players participated that first year. Over the years, the

League has grown rapidly, with over 1,200 children now participating in Tee-ball, Rookie, Minors, Majors and Challenger programs.

I am proud to point out that the Vienna Little League facilities and programs are among the finest in the country. The League earned a trip to the Little League World Series in 1972 and won the Virginia State Championship last season.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, what we are ultimately saluting today are the educational opportunities the League provides to thousands of boys and girls in terms of teamwork and sportsmanship. I know my colleagues join me in commending Vienna Little League on their first 50 years and look forward to it celebrating many more.

TRIBUTE TO ONONDAGA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Onondaga High School Boys Varsity Football Team for winning the Class D New York State Football Championship on December 1, 2001. This was the first team in Onondaga High School's history to win a Class D State football championship.

Four years ago Onondaga High School did not have a football team; therefore, within just a few years this team quickly took the game to new levels, surpassing all others in the state. Ending the season 13-0, this stellar team attained their goals and set league records. The Tigers set the bar high and focused upon winning their league title, sectional title, and state title. Their strategy was a success because they were the first team out of the 41-school Onondaga High School League to win the state title. They stayed focused and never let their determination fade.

This team came together, and against all odds, rose to the top. As a result of their unfettered fortitude, the Tigers, led by coach Bill Spicer, established themselves as a unified team and showed others how hard work, courage, and passion for the game can enable any team to conquer their goals.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, it is my honor to congratulate the Onondaga High School football team and their coaching staff on their Class D State Football Championship. With these remarks, I would like to recognize the following players and staff. Hodges Sneed, Chad Amidon, Ryan Hotaling, Justin Graham, Ricky Bova, Kyle Bome, Adam Legg, Donald Cummings, Brandon VanSlyke, Carl Runge, John Manley, Matt Scriber, Mac Cushing, Andrew Flynn, Mike Hart, Tom Brownell, Kyle Martin, Joe DelVecchio, Marty Brunner, Shane Zehr, Jon Whipple, Dan Willis, Pete Majewski, Jacob Cummings, Cory Dill, Mike McAuliffe, James Sanford, Robert Bailey, Caleb Golembiewski,

Chris Mayotte, Travis Burton, Pat Neuman, Kurt Wasilewski, Aaron Johnson, Paul Runge, Travis Hass, Adam Goodman, Jesse Schneider, Head Coach Bill Spicer, Building Principal William Rasbeek, Athletic Director Michael Rizzi, Assistant Coaches, Paul Taylor, Jeff Pierce, Rick Bailey, and Victor Zampetti, and Volunteer Coaches Dave Pierce and Sean Colfer.

IMPROVING THE MEDICARE SYSTEM

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will improve equity in the Medicare system and help to alleviate the growing problem of physician retention and recruitment in many areas.

The current physician fee schedule for Medicare has several components, one of which is a geographic index supposedly to adjust for cost differences in different areas. While this makes sense for a physician's expenses for office rent and other costs to vary by region, the time spent evaluating and treating a patient should not depend on where a senior lives.

My bill equalizes the physician work component of the Medicare physician fee schedule. The physician work component measures the physician time, skill and intensity in providing a service. Two additional components account for practice expense and malpractice expense. While practice and malpractice reimbursement should reflect differences in geographic costs, significant differences in physician fees in a national market for health care providers directly creates shortages in some communities like New Mexico, and excesses in other communities because they pay more.

This bill would eliminate the impact of the adjuster on physician pay by making it equal across the country. The physician work geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for New Mexico is 0.973. Bringing New Mexico to a 1.00 geographic adjuster whether through a floor or making all physician fees equal would translate into about a \$2,592,203 annual increase in Medicare payments to New Mexico physicians.

More and more seniors are learning that their physician has moved to a neighboring state because salaries are dramatically higher. New Mexicans don't pay into Medicare based on where we live, and we should not be denied access to health care because of where we live. Seniors in rural areas or "low cost areas" have seen increasing numbers of doctors leave for higher paying areas. Keeping doctors in rural states is extremely difficult because of the pay gap driven by discriminatory Medicare reimbursement. The disparities are very large. In 2000, average Medicare payments per beneficiary in New Mexico were

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